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Taskforce collects over $14M in tax arrears

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Norita

The Department of Finance's Tax Collection Taskforce has collected over $14 million on delinquent accounts as of last week.

In a recent presentation by DOF Secretary Tracy Norita before CNMI stakeholders during the 2nd annual Economic forum hosted by the

See TAX on Page 4

Hunt on for a man who flung contraband over DOC courtyard

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
From left, Department of Public Safety assistant chief of police Joe Saures, DPS Commissioner Anthony Macaranas, and Department of Corrections Commissioner Anthony Torres speak at a press conference yesterday addressing the recent attempt to smuggle contraband into DOC by an unidentified individual.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

A man was seen yesterday morning flinging contraband over the Department of Corrections' courtyard as inmates were let out for some air. DOC, in partnership with the Department of Public Safety, are on the hunt for the

See HUNT on Page 4

Tourist drowns at Lau Lau Bay dive site

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

A leisurely dive at the scenic Lau Lau Bay dive site turned fatal last Friday evening, May 17, when a male tourist lost his life while enjoying the waters of Saipan. It's Saipan's second known fatal drowning of 2024.

According to the Depart-

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'United, let the pets fly'

CHRYSTAL MARINO
Concerned Saipan residents join Boonie Babies, Saipan Humane Society, and Boonie Flight Project's peaceful protest outside the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport yesterday.

CHRYSTAL MARINO
This furbaby shares his story, standing with Boonie Babies, Saipan Humane Society, and Boonie Flight Project in a peaceful protest outside the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport yesterday.

CHRYSTAL MARINO
Mango wears a tell-all sign during Boonie Babies, Saipan Humane Society, and Boonie Flight Project's peaceful protest outside the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport yesterday.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

In hopes of getting the attention of a so far unresponsive United Airlines, several Saipan residents joined Boonie Babies, Saipan Humane Society, and Boonie Flight Project in a peaceful protest outside the Francisco

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CHRYSTAL MARINO
In an effort to get United Airlines to resume PetSafe travel, several concerned residents joined Boonie Babies, Saipan Humane Society, and Boonie Flight Project's peaceful protest outside the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport yesterday.

INSIDE

LOCAL
Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho and Cooperative Education Program coordinator Brandon Nicholas led the school district in honoring long-standing private and government sector partners.
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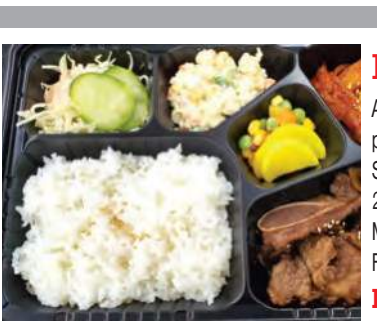

BUSINESS
An old favorite is currently plying its trade every Saturday night at the 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival Park.
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LIFE & STYLE
Authorities have opened an investigation into how Matthew Perry received the supply of ketamine that killed him, police said Tuesday.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

MVA starts A&E design of Marpi sites improvements

The Marianas Visitors Authority is taking the first steps toward the redevelopment of several major historic sites in Saipan with commencement of architecture and engineering services for the project.

Under a $1.4-million grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, TRL Architecture will provide A&E design and construction oversite for the Marpi Tourist Site Improvement Project covering Bird Island Lookout, Last Command Post, and Suicide Cliff.

"After extensive meetings with EDA to ensure the CNMI is in compliance with all expectations of the grant, we're pleased to announce the hiring of TRL Architecture to move us forward with design of the vision we have to enhance three of our most popular tourist sites in The Marianas," said MVA managing firector Christopher A. Concepcion. "We are working toward designing the site improvements and then hiring a construction contractor to do the work, which will elevate each of these sites."

Improvements to Bird Island Lookout will include a complete site redesign that will include viewing platforms; new ADA/code compliant stairs, walkways, viewing platforms, and guardrails; and an improved parking area. Improvements to Suicide Cliff Lookout will also include new ADA/code compliant stairs, walkways, viewing platforms, a ramp, and guardrails and an improved parking area. Improvements to Last Command Post will include construction of a new ADA-compliance restrooms and accompanying septic tank and leaching field.

The A&E design phase is expected to be completed in six months with the construction phase beginning shortly thereafter. This multi-phase project is anticipated to be constructed and completed by March 2027. ***(PR)***

Spotty showers to continue throughout the week before dry weather returns

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite the recent showers seen in the past few days, the National Weather Service based off of Tiyan, Guam says drier weather will return this weekend.

According to NWS' recent regional weather outlook, a trade-wind surge has been generating scattered showers across Guam and Rota while drier weather persists across Tinian and Saipan.

"Expect the spotty showers to continue through the end of the week as weak trade windtroughs bring periods of more clouds and moisture to the region. Drier weather will return for the weekend," said NWS.

Due to this, NWS says there is a high risk of rip currents along east facing reefs and beaches of the Marianas due to combined seas of 6 to 9 feet on the coastal waters.

Meanwhile, NWS reports that a rather busy pattern is in place across the Micronesian region this week with Invest 93W generating unsettled weather in western Micronesia and an upper level trough just west of Yap and Palau, fueling heavier showers and thunderstorms associated with 93W.

Therefore, forecasts for Yap and Palau will hinge closely on the evolution of 93W, said NWS.

"Showers and thunderstorms, aided by the TUTT just to the west, are moving in over most islands of central and western Yap State, including Yap Proper, Ulithi, and Fais. Drier weather, with only spotty showers, is seen across Palau. Showers and thunderstorms will soon encompass Palau as 93W nears. Expect a showery week across both locations, with fair weather returning after 93W's departure. Farther east, across Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae, and Majuro, generally fair weather exists across most locations, with the exception of showers and thunderstorms over Pohnpei, associated with a weakening surface trough. This trough will continue westward as it weakens with relatively fair weather persisting into the weekend across the region," NWS said.

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INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) NMHC IFB 2024-006

(This ad is paid by NMHC by HUD funds)

Marianas High-School Career Technical Education Center Construction Project

BID SUBMISSION DATE: June 14, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

Project Package will be available on April 30, 2024, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of One-Hundred Dollars ($100.00) is required for each set of the project package. Payment must be made payable to NMHC and receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package at the reception counter.

The project is funded through the Economic Development Authority (EDA), US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the CNMI Office of the Governor, Public Assistance Office (PAO). EDA and HUD funding will be utilized for the superstructure and site improvements.

The provisions on the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Central Office Conference located in Garapan, Saipan on **May 24, 2024, 10:00 a.m.** In addition, a Mandatory site Visit/Inspection of the project site will be conducted immediately after the Pre-Bid Conference. Failure to attend both the Mandatory Pre-bid conference and the Mandatory site Visit/Inspection will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447 or via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during business hours, 7:30am – 4:30pm Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

/s/ MERCED "MARCIE" M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

Turkish workers file motion to modify IPI's automatic stay

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Former Imperial Pacific International LLC Turkish workers, the same persons who are suing the casino investor for breach of contract claims, have filed a motion asking the bankruptcy court to modify the automatic stay that has been in place on all IPI court proceedings.

The motion, submitted by the group's lawyer Richard C. Miller, was filed last Friday, May 17, in an attempt "for the limited purpose of completing the damages phase of the civil litigation."

By doing so, it would be "permitting the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands to hold a hearing on plaintiffs' fully briefed second motion for entry of default judgment on the breach of contract claim (March 19, 2024, ECF No. 109) and to issue judgment."

The document also stated that "plaintiffs do not seek modification to allow them to execute on the judgment."

Four years ago, the first filing against the Saipan casino was made by Turkish nationals Ozcan Genc, Hasan Gokce, and Suleyman Kos, who sounded the alarm in the community about IPI's mistreatment of laborers.

In their new motion, "... the plantiffs respectfully request that the bankruptcy court issues the following orders: One, that the automatic stay is modified to allow the litigation in the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands to go forward in *Genc et al. v. IPI*, Case No. 20-cv-00031 for all purposes through final judgment, including all appeals; two, that any such judgment shall not be enrolled as a judicial lien, pending further order of this court; three, that in the event plaintiffs receive a judgment in their favor, they shall not proceed with any collection efforts except through the bankruptcy proceeding pending further order of this court."

EARTHQUAKE BRIEFS

4.5-magnitude quake shakes Yigo

At 11:04pm on May 20, 2024, a 4.5-magnitude earthquake occurred 37 km Northeast of Yigo Village, Guam. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

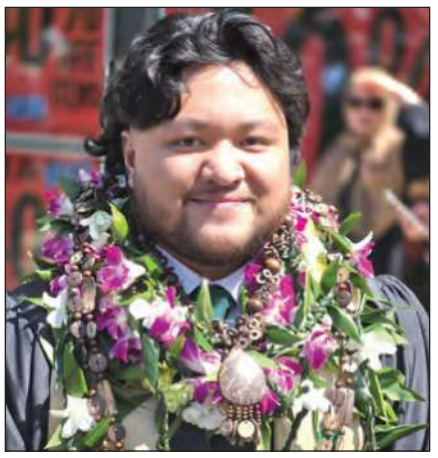
For more information, please contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at (670) 237-8000. ***(PR)***

4.5-magnitude quake shakes Saipan

At 7:58pm on May 12, 2024, a 4.5-magnitude earthquake occurred 265 kilometers north of Saipan, NMI. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

For more information, please contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at (670) 237-8000. ***(PR)***

CONGRATULATIONS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to Gage Aldan Quitugua of As Mahetog, Saipan for receiving his Bachelor of Science degree from California State University-Sacramento in Biological Science (Cell & Molecular).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gage Aldan Quitugua was part of over 9,700 graduates receiving degrees during Sacramento State's 2024 Commencement held on May 17-19, across a total of seven ceremonies at the Golden 1 Center. The family, mom (Virginia Quitugua), and grandparents (Juan L. and Manuela A. Babauta) are extremely proud of your accomplishments, great results come from hard work.

GMS celebrates 22nd Foundation Day with Family Fun Day

Green Meadow School marked its 22nd Foundation Day with a festive Family Fun Day at Micro Beach on May 18, 2024. The event kicked off at 6am, bringing together students, parents, teachers, and community members for a day filled with excitement and camaraderie.

The celebrations began with a vibrant walking parade from Micro Beach to Inos Park. Participants, dressed in Family Fun Day attire, marched joyfully showcasing the school's spirit and unity.

Following the parade, attendees enjoyed a high-energy Zumba session, led by the school teachers, that got everyone moving and grooving to invigorating rhythms. The day's activities continued with a series of engaging games designed for both students and parents, fostering a sense of community and teamwork.

Adding to the excitement, a raffle with enticing prizes kept the anticipation high throughout the day. Winners were thrilled to take home various rewards, making the event even more memorable.

Principal Milagros Songcuan expressed her gratitude to everyone who participated and contributed to the success of the event followed by school president Glenn Songcuan.

With over 180 persons present the Family Fun Day was a resounding success, reinforcing Green Meadow School's commitment to fostering a supportive and joyful educational environment.

For more information about Green Meadow School, call (670) 235-2185, email info@greenmeadowschool.net for inquiries, or visit their main campus in Chalan Kiya past Saipan Health Clinic. ***(PR)***

GMS

Green Meadow School staff and students pose for a group photo while celebrating GMS' 22nd Foundation Day with a Family Fun Day at Micro Beach on May 18, 2024.

GMS

Green Meadow School staff and students held a walking parade from Micro Beach to Inos Park to mark GMS' 22nd Foundation Day.

HUNT

From page 1

individual and are seeking the community's help in locating and identifying him.

During a press conference yesterday afternoon, DOC Commissioner Anthony Torres shared that at around 9am yesterday morning, a man was seen throwing contraband over DOC's southern fence into DOC's courtyard while inmates were out for recreation time.

However, the individual remains at large and unidentified.

"There was an incident this morning at approximately 9:39am where a man was seen in the jungle on the south side of the DOC facility. He was caught throwing an object over the DOC fence into the DOC's full court while inmates were in recreation playing basketball. At that point, my staff immediately responded to the call to assist with the search. My internal affairs staff also responded by searching the Nauru Building for the suspect along with DOC officers. The suspect was described as male, around 5'5 to 5'8, between 100 lbs. to 200 lbs., with medium-tanned skin and short wavey hair. In addition, the suspect was last seen wearing a blue turquoise shirt with a light-brown long sleeve camouflage jacket, dark colored shorts, and slippers," said Torres.

As of press time, Torres said he could not disclose what the contraband was specifically as an investigation remains pending, but he said all possible angles are being explored and information will be released once the suspect is apprehended.

"DOC is also looking into the possibility that the suspect could have been a former inmate dropping off contraband. We're investigating all angles," he said.

Torres said DPS officers also assisted the search by scouring the jungle area from which the contraband was flung from.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

TAX

From page 1

Saipan Chamber of Commerce, she shared that as of last week, the newly formed Tax Collection Taskforce has collected a total of $14.46 million on delinquent accounts.

"The most important take away from our meeting with SCC last year was 'you have to level the playing field' by increasing tax enforcement. So, we did that by creating a Tax Collection Taskforce and I'm glad to say we were able to collect $14.4 million in tax arrears," she said.

Norita also shared that through the taskforce, Finance has been able to create 113 installment agreements to help taxpayers to come into compliance.

"We've also seen an increase in delinquent cases assigned to revenue officers pending review, about 226," she shared.

Meanwhile, Norita also shared that as of the second quarter of FY24, the CNMI saw a cumulative shortfall of $4.1 million in revenue collected.

"This fiscal year 2024, we forecasted approximately $163 million [in revenue collections]. We've reported to the legislature our Q2 collections which was forecasted at $82 million but we are short at $78.5 million. We are monitoring this shortfall as we enter Q3 and should we be reasonably certain that we might not meet the overall forecast, we will be preparing a revised budget," she said.

Breaking down how much revenue was collected in the first two quarters of FY24, Norita said of the revenue collected in Q1 and Q2, most was from business gross revenue tax. Specifically, BGRT made up 45% of revenue collections in Q1 and 46% in Q2.

Meanwhile, other income taxes (like earnings tax, wage and salary tax, etc.) made up about 20% of the revenue collected in Q1 and 4% in Q2.

As for hotel occupancy tax, Norita shared in her presentation that HOT made up only 5% of the revenue collected in Q1 and 4% in Q2.

"In preparing our budget forecast, it is definitely a challenge because finding a base year similar to what we are going through now, we're definitely not close to pre-pandemic years. So, we had to look far back, as far as 10 years back (pre-casino, pre-Soudelor) and that brought up back to FY2014, we are closest to FY2014 government revenue collections. In 2014, we had around $154 million and our forecast for FY25 is about $158 million which is a reduction from our current fiscal year," she said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

TOURIST

From page 1

ment of Public Safety and acting public informant officer Simon T. Manacop, the victim, whose name is being withheld, was a 40-year-old Chinese tourist.

DPS indicated that the man arrived at the dive site around 4:30pm that Friday, accompanied by a female companion and two hired dive operators. The group, including the victim, his companion, and the dive instructors, descended to a depth of 12 meters without any apparent issues during their initial dive.

According to the report, when the group approached the reefline, witnesses observed the victim repeatedly ascending to the surface and descending back to the ocean floor, displaying signs of distress. Despite efforts from the dive instructor to offer assistance, the victim's panic escalated, and he was seen waving his arms frantically.

The report continues stating that when the victim's air gauge reached 0 psi, indicating a complete depletion of his oxygen supply, the dive instructor attempted to offer a secondary regulator, which was refused by the victim. Subsequently, the victim was escorted back to shore, where he was discovered unconscious by the instructor. Immediate CPR was administered until medical assistance arrived.

Tragically, despite efforts to revive him, the victim was pronounced dead at 7:29pm at the Commonwealth Health Center, succumbing to drowning.

Authorities have assured that the case remains under investigation, urging anyone with information to come forward. Individuals can contact DPS Marine Patrol Section (MPS) at (670) 233-9120, DPS headquarters at (670) 664-9001 or the Crime Stoppers Hotline at (670) 234-7272 if they wish to remain anonymous. DPS also encourages the public to call the emergency line "911" to report a crime or emergency.

The public is urged the importance of safety precautions and vigilance during recreational activities, especially in environments as unpredictable as the ocean.

The incident is the second reported drowning of the year. Last Jan. 3, 22-year-old Traven Quitugua drowned off the coast of Hidden Beach while spearfishing with a companion.

UNITED

From page 1

C. Ada/Saipan International Airport yesterday. The group is requesting the return of the carrier's PetSafe travel program.

"We are really pleasantly surprised with the turnout. But really this is an issue that affects so many people, we get at least one message every single week of an owner here on island begging us for help because they're moving and they have no idea what to do with their dog," said Boonie Babies' Aria Keilbach.

And they end up being the ones to apologize and break the news that United still doesn't fly pets off-island after the carrier cancelled its PetSafe travel program.

"It's just heartbreaking as the family realizes they have to leave a piece of them behind as they're going to move. We have a dog with us right now whose owner literally needed lifesaving heart surgery and was devastated to leave her behind but had no choice. We're really grateful to the community for coming out and showing their support because it's affecting people here and a lot of them at that and it's good to see that people are speaking up about it."

SHS and Boonie Flight Project founder Lauren Cabrera lauded Boonie Babies for organizing the protest at the airport.

"I think it's amazing we had such a great turnout. Boonie Babies has done such a great job organizing it. It's long overdue. United discontinued their pet shipping program in 2018 and they currently only allow military from Guam to ship pets from Guam to Honolulu, leaving the rest of us stranded. And pets get left behind, there's a lot of unnecessary euthanasia, and suffering of animals because of this it's breaking the heart of families, and it just seems borderline discriminatory almost to allow military only this exemption and then leave the rest of us stranded. I'm the president of the animal shelter in Guam and 40% of the surrenders there are due to relocation issues and the majority of those are euthanized, and the blood is on the hands of United."

People young and old united in the protest with several protesters even totting various signs that read "No pets left behind," "Save the boonies," and "If we don't fly, we die."

Ten-year-old Finn Fraiche explained his sign which read "Let pets fly, let pets fly, down with United."

"I have two cats here that I really love, and I'm leaving in two years, and I want them to be able to come with me. My teacher's leaving this year and she has a few pets so I want them to be able to come with us," he said.

Kagman resident and animal welfare adviser Dorsha Moreno said Saipan needs to get dogs on island access to homes in the states because of dog overpopulation on the island.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

PSS honors 37 private, public partners of co-op program on Saipan for accepting 123 HS interns

PSS

Heads of offices and representatives of all 37 government departments and agencies, and the private sector along with all their 123 high school students-interns were honored by the Public School System last May 16 in a ceremony led by Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho, standing center, and PSS Cooperative Education Program coordinator Brandon Nicholas.

PSS

Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho shares his experience and the benefits he gained as a former co-op program intern during his high school years to high school students.

Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho and Cooperative Education Program coordinator Brandon Nicholas led the school district in honoring long-standing private and government sector partners that ensured the co-op program's decades of continuous implementation and support to public high school students.

In the Commonwealth, the Cooperative Education Program, referred to as co-op program, was pioneered on Saipan as a school-based program by the oldest public high school: Marianas High School, in 1971. It has grown and became a district-wide program during school year 2013-2014, with PSS expanding its intent, which integrates classroom instruction with supervised on-the-job training, to include all public high schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The co-op program consists of both cooperative education, which occurs on-campus, and cooperative training, which occurs off campus. By participating in off-campus job training, co-op students will be able to apply classroom concepts through real-life, experiential learning.

During PSS' decision to implement it as a district-wide initiative, the number of private businesses and government agencies and departments signing up as partners increased. The co-op program became one of the single largest sources for employment training for public high school students.

The PSS Cooperative Education Program is federally funded.

Benefits

On Thursday, May 16, Camacho revealed to the 123 high school co-op students on Saipan he was also a beneficiary of the program.

"I was once like you are now: I worked through all day, and it opened up opportunities for me," Camacho said during the PSS Cooperative Education Program Partners Appreciation last Thursday.

"I was a bagger boy, a gas attendant, worked as an intern at the former Nikko Hotel, and

See PSS on Page 9

PSS

PSS co-op program coordinator Brandon Nicholas praised the student, teachers and partners of the program and its continued success over the years.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A Republican warning of national political suicide

The world was shocked when more than 900 Americans who followed "People's Temple" preacher Jim Jones to the wilderness of Guyana committed suicide or were murdered at his command in 1978 after swallowing fruit drinks laced with cyanide.

Millions wondered how something so ghastly could happen. Far from a mystery, it was another example, albeit an extreme one, of how a charismatic cult leader makes his followers forsake all else—even their own lives.

Many dictatorships and millions of wartime deaths have owed to such evil genius. The United States is up next.

Donald Trump has transformed virtually the entire Republican Party into a personality cult, rather than the responsible instrument of principles and policy that it once was.

Only he matters. He jokes about being a dictator if he's elected again "but only on Day One."

Trump has not only survived, but prospered from a torrent of personal, commercial and political scandals, any one of which would have destroyed anyone else's political career. It's a damning indictment of America.

Having tried to overthrow the 2020 election, Trump will not commit to accepting the outcome on Nov. 5.

His cascade of lies, indictments and moral outrages seems to have strengthened his hold over the cult.

The vast majority of Republican officeholders, who should set a better example, worship him outright or cower in silence.

Sen. Rick Scott went to Trump's trial last week in a show of loyalty, but long before that, he and a dozen Florida House Republicans voted against certifying Biden's election. (In an editorial at the time, we called them "the Sunshine State seditionists.")

Even now, Rep. Byron Donalds of Naples, said to be on Trump's vice presidential short list, is among those who will not commit to respecting the outcome if Trump loses fairly again.

So it's significant when someone breaks away from the MAGA pack, as Georgia's former Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan did.

Writing in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Duncan said he would vote for Biden and that other Republicans should, too.

"I'm voting for a decent person I disagree with on policy over a criminal defendant without a moral compass," Duncan wrote.

He said it's "dead wrong" for Republicans to believe they're obligated to support the party ticket, no matter what.

"Yes, serious questions linger about President Biden's ability to serve until the age of 86," he wrote. "But the GOP will never rebuild until we move on from the Trump era, leaving conservative (but not angry) Republicans like me have no choice but to pull the lever for Biden."

Trump, he said, "has shown us who he is. We should believe him."

Other Republicans who recognize integrity as the one in-

See SUICIDE on Page 7

No, the Israeli-Palestinian divide is not unbridgeable. Here's how I know

One could be forgiven for assuming the world is on the brink of collapse. There is no shortage of negativity and polarization, even for those who don't seek it.

Social media sets negativity and division as defaults. Politicians run on them. We pass through life in a guarded posture, primed to harden our hearts to strangers.

To choose a more sanguine and conciliatory path under these man-made conditions demands an almost delusional spirit of rebellion. And yet it is possible.

The reverberations of the war in Gaza have permeated borders beyond the river and the sea and bled into our streets, legislatures and universities. From Israel to the Ivy League, we're shown the most extreme elements of each side, impressing upon the public gross generalizations and a false sense of unbridgeable division.

We spotlight one student's hateful "Zionists don't deserve to live" as sufficient to caricature pro-Palestinian protesters as invariably plagued by rank Jew-hatred and reverence for terrorists-turned-martyrs. We showcase a politician's call to erase "the Gaza Strip from the face of the Earth" to smear supporters of Israel as cheerleaders for genocide.

Extremists who sabotage the very cause they purport to advance are common to all movements. To make them the moral of the story, however, only reinforces the notion that this conflict is beyond resolution. We resign ourselves to the cynic's insistence that there is no hope of mixing oil and water.

But there is abundance in the land of milk and honey.

Despite the magnification of the extremes, a collective of people occupies the center of the Venn diagram, where the two sides intersect and find commonality. I count myself among them.

I work with a diverse collective of progressive Jews focused on addressing antisemitism, with an emphasis on how anti-Jewish ideas and implicit biases affect conversations about Israel and Palestine. Underpinning our philosophy is the conviction that empathy for Muslims and Palestinians is part and parcel of the same for Jews and Israelis. As the grandson of a man who was once the sole Jewish member of parliament in pre-revolution Iran, I take Muslim-Jewish coexistence personally, even though I am not naive about its challenges.

At a time when people are fed a heavy diet of unconditional solidarity with their "side," we promote cross-communal dialogue, unsettling as it might be, because there is liberation in engaging in spite of our disagreements. Rather than taking the institutional approach of arming people with clever talking points to "win" debates, we empower them with tools for engagement.

By DANIEL BRAL
Los Angeles Times

Daniel Bral is a facilitator and writer on Israel-Palestine issues.

We literally meet people where they are, whether at UCLA's Gaza solidarity encampment or campus Jewish associations. We ask questions such as "How has this conflict personally affected you?" and "Do you have family on the ground?" Personal connections can be sparked when conversations aren't agenda-driven and strict adherence to message discipline isn't enforced. We might find that we identify with a person's lived experience, so that instead of seeing an adversary on the other side, we see a partner.

This is not to paint a Pollyanna-ish picture. Some reject dialogue, some divisions can't be papered over and some do harbor hatred.

But I have facilitated conversations with people who believed Jews should be held responsible for the actions of the Israeli government but came to understand the harm in their stance. I have led talks in which people who said they weren't capable of empathy for Palestinians came to appreciate how connected our futures are.

What ultimately binds people in the center of the Venn diagram is an understanding that Israelis and Palestinians lack the luxury to be prisoners of a scarcity mentality — the notion that there isn't enough for both peoples. Expecting ideological uniformity of our allies is a delusion that impairs our ability to see the bigger picture. Regardless of external pressures, we remain anchored by the realization of the two peoples' shared fate. There will be no exodus of Israelis or Palestinians from the holy land.

That sobering realization puts everything into sharp focus. Trivial differences are shelved to build partnerships that can graduate into political change.

Insisting on our own exclusive righteousness only inflames division, perpetuates the unjust status quo and serves the people in power who benefit from it.

For every person screaming that there are "no innocents in Gaza" or that "all Israelis are settlers," there are others who center both peoples' humanity. These are the Israeli and Palestinian

See DIVIDE on Page 7

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The subtle art of influence—China's strategic engagement in the CNMI

By GLEN HUNTER
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Glen Hunter is the special assistant Broadband Policy Development.

China's growing presence in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands cannot be ignored. Using strategic capitalist methods, the Chinese Communist Party has been making calculated moves to establish a stronghold in various islands across the Pacific. The CNMI is a prime example of this creeping influence, showing the long-term consequences when Chinese involvement goes unchecked. By offering economic incentives and forming partnerships with influential local figures, China aims to sway public opinion and influence key decision-making processes in these island communities.

China's approach is characterized by patience and a long-term vision. By investing in infrastructure, tourism, and real estate, the CCP has managed to gain a foothold in these regions. These investments often come with collaborations with local influencers who play pivotal roles in promoting Chinese projects within their communities.

A primary tactic involves partnering with local influencers to promote Chinese interests and projects. Through these alliances, China seeks to gain credibility and support among residents, ultimately shaping their perceptions of China as a beneficial ally. By aligning with key local figures, China portrays itself as a benefactor, providing much-needed economic opportunities and development projects. Over time, this strategy aims to cultivate a sense of dependency and trust towards China among the local populace.

Influential community leaders, industry groups, media, business owners, and politicians are instrumental in shaping public opinion favorably towards China. The CCP identifies and builds relationships with individuals in significant positions within community groups on the islands. By supporting these individuals, China aims to co-opt entire groups into aligning with its agenda, portraying itself as a savior for the region.

China's influence extends beyond economics into the political arena. CCP-backed businesses strategically steer various industries towards reliance on Chinese resources and expertise. This gradual shift not only cements China's economic influence but also allows for subtle political manipulation. By dominating key sectors, China can suppress dissenting voices and reshape public opinion to align with its interests.

Over the past few decades, Chinese influence has permeated key industries such as garment manufacturing, real estate, hospitality, and casino gaming in the CNMI. While these industries have brought some economic prosperity, they also highlight the complex balance between benefiting from Chinese investment and maintaining geopolitical stability and the islands' integrity.

The tourism sector in the CNMI had notably shifted toward reliance on Chinese visitors before the pandemic, with less focus on diversifying into other markets. This shift reflects growing Chinese influence in shaping the tourism landscape of the CNMI.

Interestingly, groups and influencers in the CNMI have transitioned over the past decade to oppose military development due to concerns about environmental damage and cultural loss. However, these same influencers have readily embraced large-scale investments backed by the CCP, such as garment factories and casinos, without expressing similar concerns about potential societal, environmental, and cultural impacts on the islands.

This double standard highlights a paradoxical stance where resistance is shown against U.S. military presence due to perceived negative consequences while simultaneously endorsing extensive Chinese enterprise development without similar scrutiny. Such contrasting reactions underscore the complex interplay of geopolitical influences and economic interests that shape public sentiment and decision-making processes in the CNMI.

The recent pandemic and blatant public corruption of the last administration have allowed for a shift in CNMI's political landscape, pivoting away from China. This signifies a potential reevaluation of external alignments. This change reflects growing concerns over the long-term consequences of deep-rooted Chinese influence and underscores the importance of balancing economic benefits with political autonomy to ensure sovereignty and independence amidst foreign engagements.

We are witnessing the persistence of CCP-influenced individuals, businesses, and groups today. Despite the negative impacts experienced over the past few years due to over-reliance on China, there are still calls for the current administration to allocate resources towards regaining access to the Chinese market. Given the regional geopolitical dynamics, there is a strong possibility that access to Chinese tourism could once again cease in the near future. This is a tangible reality, not a remote possibility. Evaluating risk suggests that investing in redeveloping the China market for tourism could be a high-risk endeavor for sustainable tourism in the CNMI. It raises the question of why this concern is not more prominent among those advocating for renewed focus on the China market for tourism.

Groups like the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, when dealing with low tourism numbers, have chosen to focus on China-centric initiatives like EVS-TAP and Annex VI provision rather than addressing critical factors affecting access to other markets, reducing regional airfare prices, or pushing for cabotage waivers. This focus suggests an alignment with broader CCP strategies that prioritize regulatory frameworks favorable to Chinese tourism over diversified approaches that might reduce dependency on any single market.

The CNMI must adopt a proactive approach to decision-making. While economic incentives from China can bring immediate benefits, it's crucial to assess long-term implications on political autonomy and regional stability. This reliance raises concerns about the sustainability and resilience of the CNMI's tourism industry amidst geopolitical shifts or economic fluctuations. Strategic planning and careful consideration of external partnerships are essential to safeguarding national interests.

Given this backdrop, federal intervention is crucial to counteract any push towards reestablishing overly dependent ties with China. Funding opportunities should be directed toward diversifying economic partnerships and bolstering industries that can thrive independently of Chinese investment. Policy adjustments are necessary to encourage local businesses to explore alternative markets and reduce reliance on a single foreign investment partner.

Additionally, resources must be allocated toward strengthening political autonomy and ensuring local governance is free from undue foreign influence. This includes supporting transparency initiatives and anti-corruption measures that can prevent foreign entities from co-opting local leaders.

Economic security is fundamental for establishing national security in this region. Without stable economic foundations free from over-reliance on any one nation, political autonomy and regional stability cannot be assured. Ensuring CNMI's economic stability through diversified investments and robust policy frameworks is essential for safeguarding national sovereignty.

China's engagement in the CNMI showcases a sophisticated blend of economic and political tactics aimed at establishing influence. By leveraging economic incentives and collaborating with local influencers, China seeks to reshape public opinion and align local interests with its own. The case study of CNMI exemplifies the complexities involved in balancing economic prosperity with geopolitical stability.

As Pacific island nations continue to engage with external powers, maintaining a balance between economic benefits and political autonomy will be crucial to preserving sovereignty and independence. The federal government's role in providing funding opportunities, policy adjustments, and resources is vital to counteract China's influence and ensure long-term stability for regions like ours here in the CNMI. Furthermore, the federal government must fully support our current administration, that is publicly pivoting away from China, thereby reinforcing our commitment to diversified economic growth and national security.

DIVIDE

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activists, faith leaders and community organizers who take to the streets of Tel Aviv and the parks of New York to rally for what's best not for one but for all, because they know there is no salvation for one without salvation for the other.

Look at the alternative: human beings held hostage, innocent people dying and starving, families grieving and hopeless.

The people should not pay for the sins of their leaders. The people want peace.

We have a choice between amplifying the attention seekers or the peace seekers, between broad coalitions or the shallow comfort of our ideological bubbles. We can serve as proof that being pro-Israeli doesn't inherently mean you're anti-Palestinian, and vice versa. We can acknowledge that one people's miracle was another's catastrophe. We can make room for the other's narrative without compromising our own. We can choose the more sanguine path.

The change we long for is possible when we unite around a shared struggle to achieve collective liberation. Peace as we know it requires partners. And for peace to be made at the top, it must start at the grassroots.

SUICIDE

From page 6

dispensable quality of a president should follow Duncan's advice, rather than symbolically waste their votes, as ex-House Speaker Paul Ryan says he will do by writing in another Republican.

Ryan said Trump lacks "the kind of character" a president should have, which is certainly true, if grossly understated.

To vote for anyone else, whether a Republican or an independent like the conspiracy theorist Robert F. Kennedy Jr., or to not vote at all, is to concede that either Biden or Trump will be the next president.

The Electoral College makes it impossible for any independent candidate to be more than a spoiler, as Ralph Nader did in 2000 when he effectively handed the election to George W. Bush after the Florida recount with Al Gore.

If Ryan thinks Trump lacks the character to be president, he should help elect Biden—and hope, as Duncan does, for a Republican Congress to keep him in check.

He should remember what retired Gen. John Kelly, one of Trump's former chiefs of staff, said of him: "The depth of his dishonesty is just astounding to me. … He is the most flawed person I have ever met in my life."

Long before that terrible day in Jonestown, Jim Jones had cult members rehearse how they would drink a poisoned beverage to commit what he called "revolutionary suicide," a term he didn't invent.

It is no exaggeration to say that America could commit revolutionary suicide on Nov. 5. Geoff Duncan has told us how to avoid it.

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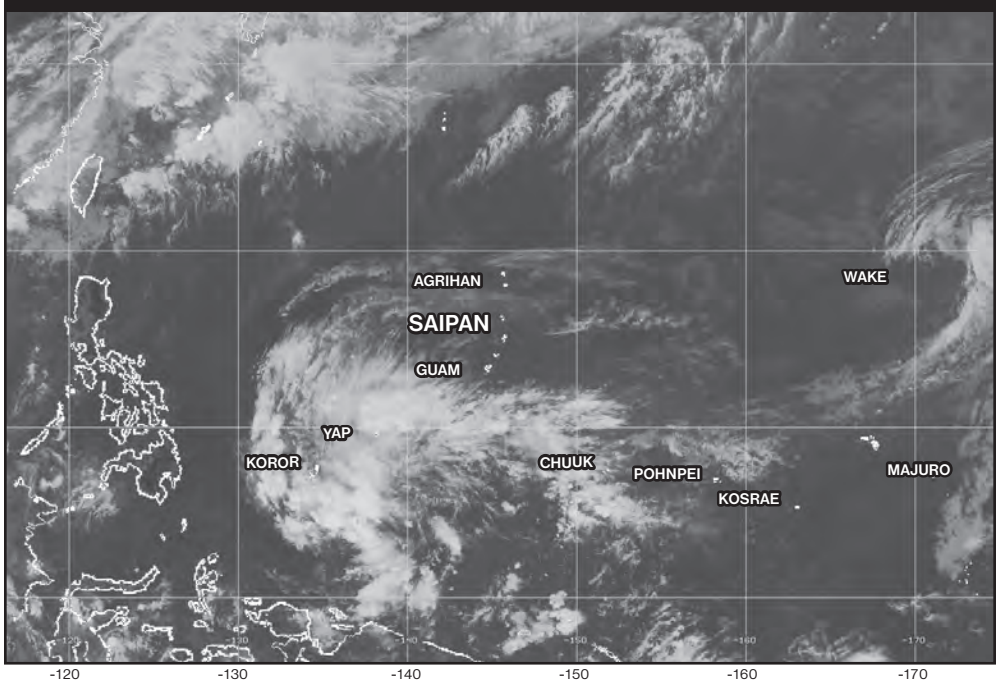
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.
89° 79°	89° 78°	89° 78°	89° 78°	89° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:49 AM TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery showing mostly cloudy skies and scattered showers for Guam this morning, with partly cloudy skies and isolated showers for the CNMI. Latest altimetry data is indicating seas of 6 to 8 feet to the west and east of the coastal waters.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Fair/Wind	89° / 80°
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Cloudy	86° / 80°
Kosrae	Fair	86° / 80°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:07 AM	6:27 PM
Friday	-	5:53 AM	7:24 PM
Saturday	-	6:45 AM	8:24 PM
Sunday	-	7:42 AM	9:22 PM
Monday	-	8:42 AM	10:18 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Fair	67° / 56°
Beijing	Haze	83° / 61°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	79° / 75°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85° / 73°
London	Rain	58° / 53°
Los Angeles	Sunny	75° / 57°
Manila	Fair	96° / 81°
Melbourne	Rain	54° / 45°
Miami	Clear	87° / 73°
New York	Clear	80° / 57°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	78° / 58°
Paris	Sunny	82° / 59°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	64° / 57°
Rome	Thunderstorms	75° / 63°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	80° / 61°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	62° / 52°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	82° / 59°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	82° / 66°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	84° / 63°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:23 AM	Low Tide	1.31
6:24 AM	High Tide	1.93
1:43 PM	Low Tide	-0.07
8:52 PM	High Tide	1.95

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 7, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:40AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:10AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:15PM	1:40AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:35PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

PSS

From page 5

moved to Duty Free Shoppers as an inventory staff—all these because I benefited the intent of being a Cooperative Education Program student during my high school years," said Camacho.

He added:" This was a time when employers opened doors for me to step into this world of employment while I was still in high school. I was combining my academics and development with the workforce experience. And the people that I was working with were coaching and guiding me, mentoring me. All these were very valuable to me, and our co-op program made it happen."

Camacho praised the 37 private companies and government departments and agencies for "adding value" to the learning experience of public high school students.

"Thank you partners for helping us make it happen to our public school students—the children of the CNMI. Thank you for being part of the students' learning process, for adding value to their education life by letting them experience early how it is to be part of the workforce sector."

PSS

Public high school students who are part of the Spring 2024 Cooperative Education Internship Program.

Partners

Held at Kensington Hotel, PSS through Camacho and Nicholas said 37 private companies and government agencies and departments on Saipan made it happen for the 123 public high school students.

Camacho and the co-op program coordinator tendered a luncheon and presented the 37 private and government partners with a special plaque of recognition. They are: 500 Sails/ 500 Sails Boatyard, American Memorial Park, Cha Cafe & Bistro, Commonwealth Cancer Association, Commonwealth Law revision Commission, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Coral Ocean Golf Resort, Delta Management—Shell Marianas, Department of Public Safety, Gold's Gym, Hafa Adai Roasting Company, Herman's Modern Bakery, Hyatt Regency Saipan, IT&E-CNMI, Java Joe's, Joeten Enterprises, Karidat Social Service, Kensington Hotel, Koblerville Elementary School, Latte Built Fitness, LP Accounting, Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, Northern Marianas Housing Corp., Pacific Islands Club, Pacifica Insurance, Paradise Dental Spa, PHI Pharmacy, Plumeria Steakhouse/Ete Café, Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Saipan Southern High School, Saipan World Resort, Salt and Barber LLC, Tasi to Table, and Torres Refrigeration Inc.

Record-breaking

Nicholas said this year is a record-breaking semester for the program.

"We have a full venue, and this is not by accident. Today we celebrate the end of a record-breaking semester for the co-op program. Roughly over 120 students train at over 35 private and public sector companies and agencies on just the island of Saipan. If we include our neighboring islands of Rota and Tinian, our numbers jump to over 200 + students at on-the-job training and over 70 different training sites. This is a win for our islands and a win that we can all celebrate together," Nicholas said.

"(W)ith more students come the possibilities of more successes and, of course, more challenges. I am extremely grateful to have a strong team of teachers that handle the front lines at our schools and do everything they can to ensure that each of our students do their hours, submit their documents and get paid. We're more than a class, and these professionals exemplify what it means to go above and beyond," he added.

Nicholas expressed his program's appreciation to the "foundation of the program"—classroom teachers who continually made it happen: Andrew Golden of Saipan Southern High School, Fred Salavaria of Kagman High School, Kristina Torres and Eun Benavente and Christine Acbo of Marianas High School, Joan Torres of Da'ok Academy, and Susan Pajarillaga from Grace Christian Academy.

"I often pride myself on telling our students during my initial visit that there are always more co-op jobs than there are students, but I don't think I was going to be able to use that catchphrase this time around. Fast-forward to now, and we have industry professionals from over 35 public and private companies and agencies present to celebrate another successful semester of partnership. Thank you!" ***(PR)***

DELTA MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (SAIPAN)

ACCOUNTANT

Delta Management Corporation, which operates 5 Shell Branded Gas Stations and Convenience Stores is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Accountant. Successful applicants will act as the main point of contact between the company and vendors, partners and other external parties, ensuring smooth communication and coordination. Must be proficient with QuickBooks, NAV, Microsoft Excel and Word programs and be flexible, adaptable and work in a fast-paced environment.

The successful candidate must be organized, trustworthy, able to work on a team and have a great attitude.

- Demonstrate understanding of accounting controls and principles.
- Review financial statements for accuracy and compliance.
- Generate weekly cash position reports.
- Responsible for accurately reviewing payroll data and entering it into QuickBooks.
- Responsible for accurate auditing of daily sales reports for service stations
- Responsible for monthly sales summary reports and fuel reconciliation.
- Review and provide deposit reconciliation and create cash flow projections.
- Adhere to and meet reporting deadlines.
- Prepare Monthly BGRT reports and other tax and compliance reports.
- Must have thorough analytical skills for the reconciliation of fleet cards and credit card transactions.

On-island reference & police clearance required.

E-mail resume to: islandtrainingsolutions@gmail.com

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 07-2024

Opening date: May 15, 2024 **Closing date: June 5, 2024**

Location: SAIPAN **SALARY**

Position(s):

(1) Staff Engineer **UNGRADED**

Nature of Work

Highly responsible for all engineering programs and activities of CPA.

This employee is responsible for the management and supervision of engineering programs and activities at the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). Work is technical in nature and reviewed through conferences with the Executive Director or his designee and submission of reports. Employee exercises independent judgment in solutions to situations or problems in which no precedents exist. This position is unclassified.

Minimum Qualifications

Graduation from high school (or G.E.D.) and a four (4) year degree in civil engineering from an accredited U.S. college or university with no less than five (5) years of progressively responsible experience in a professional engineering level of which three (3) years pertain to supervisory experience.

Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction.

(1) STAFF ATTORNEY **UNGRADED**

Nature of Work

Under the general direction of the CPA Board of the Directors and the Executive Director to provide legal assistance and advice on a day-to-day basis and to render such legal services as may be requested. Required to perform such services as may be designated, including but not limited to, all or any portion of the employer's administrative, supervisory, planning and other obligations in the operations of the airports and seaport of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This position is unclassified.

Minimum Qualifications

1. Must be a U.S. citizen.
2. Member (active) of the CNMI Bar.
3. Graduated with Juris Doctor degree from an accredited U.S. law school.
4. At least five (5) years work experience in either the government or private practice, and at least three (3) years experience in civil litigation, including jury trials.
5. Have never been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, in any jurisdiction.
6. Shall have no felony or criminal conviction.

(1) COMPTROLLER **UNGRADED**

Nature of Work

Difficult and highly responsible professional accounting work involving the management and supervision of CPA's major accounting program.

This employee is responsible for the management and supervision of all phases and functions of CPA's accounting program consisting of several numbers of subordinate accountants and account clerical personnel. Work is technical in nature and reviewed through conferences with the Executive Director or his designee and submission of reports. Employee exercises independent judgment in solutions to situations or problems in which no clear precedents exist. This position is unclassified.

Minimum Qualifications

Must possess four (4) year degree in Accounting, Finance, or related field from an accredited U.S. college or university with no less than seven (7) years of progressively responsible experience in professional Accounting, Finance or managerial level of which three (3) years pertain to supervisory experience. Accounting experience in autonomous agencies and/or U.S. Certified Public Accountant is preferred.

Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction.

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, June 05, 2024.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays and austerity, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

Business

123 Foods using Taste of The Marianas as springboard

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

An old favorite is currently plying its trade every Saturday night at the 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival Park.

123 Foods may look like just an ordinary stall at the American Memorial Park but it's so much more, especially if you have time to watch their video conveniently shown in front of their Taste of Marianas setup.

"Although the official opening of 123 Foods was in 2019, the actual opening goes back in the '80s. We used to own Keeraku Japanese Restaurant and Rakuen Korean BBQ Restaurant in Garapan. As we've been around for a long time, we have the expertise in food quality, knowledge

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
123 Foods' chicken fried rice.

of local's favorite taste, and are aware of different cultural backgrounds. In short, we can guarantee of the taste that locals love," said owner Sean Lee.

At the Taste of Marianas, 123 Foods has been quite a hit with their classic galbi bento, spicy chicken fried rice, red rice balls, and hot brownies with ice cream all certified bestsellers.

"Since this is our first public event, there's been a lot of work and preparation. Lots of chaos as well. But I think we are getting the hang of it. We offer a variety of fusion foods of Korean, Japanese, Filipino, Italian, and local," said Lee.

As well as their old Keeraku and Rakuen customers pining for the old Garapan restaurants' staples, 123 Foods pleasantly has a hit a chord with the newer generation at the Taste of the Marianas.

"Actually, lots of people showed gratitude and excitement for us coming back. Especially for our galbi bento. There are several different restaurants serving the same dish on island, but it never tastes the same as Rakuen's galbi bento. Youngsters and those newer to the island who didn't experience our old restaurants, they also showed interest on our food and our story as well. Those who tried our food all of them were surprised as to its quality," said Lee.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
123 Foods' hot brownies with ice cream.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
123 Foods' stall at the 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival Park at the American Memorial Park.

Lee admitted that the family business was one of the casualties of the economic downturn in the early 2010s, but he said 123 Foods is slowly picking up the pieces, starting five years ago when they opened 123 Store in Chalan Kanoa.

Lee points out that in a way 123 Foods at the Taste of Marinas is their reintroduction to Saipan's dining scene.

"Our booth at Taste of Marianas is our promotion. It's a stepping stone in our business to bring back the old dishes from Keeraku and Rakuen restaurants. Since all our orders are party tray based, not many customers have easy access to our foods. We've specially created each and every menu for the people."

The 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival Park's last day is this Saturday and Lee said 123 Foods is ready to serve the appetites of locals and tourists alike from 5pm to 11pm.

123 Store in Chalan Kanoa is open from Monday to Sunday, 6am-9pm. For more information, call (670) 235-1231 or visit them on Facebook and Instagram: "123 Store." Currently, 123 Store is only taking special party tray orders and cannot accommodate dine-in customers

Commonwealth Zoning Board
Board Meeting

Thursday, June 06, 2024 | 2:00 PM
Multi-Purpose Center • Susupe, Saipan
Tel: 670-234-9661/2 • Fax: 670-234-9666
E-mail: ZoningBoard@cnmizoning.com

AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of 06/06/24 Meeting Agenda
4. Adoption of 05/02/24 Meeting Minutes
5. Communications
6. Public Comments (not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:

Application for Change in Zoning District/ Land Use/ Text, File# 2024-1363 – Atkins Kroll Saipan Inc. is requesting to amend the text of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013 as amended, Article 4, Section 404, Table 1 of Uses, to allow for Automobile Sales & Services Use in the Beach Road zoning district. This district includes all lots situated east of and abutting Beach Road, extending from the intersection of Beach Road and Gualo Rai Road, and southward to the intersection of Beach Road and Chalan Msgr. Guerrero.

C. Old Business

1. Nuisance Abatement and Blighted Properties Maintenance Act of 2018 Regulations – Board review of final draft

D. New Business

1. Administrative Findings/ Proposed Resolution for Board Adoption – To amend Article 4, Section 404, Table 1 of Uses for transmittal to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, as authorized under 1 CMC section 7242 of the Commonwealth Code:
   a. To include "government service" within the Public Resource zoning district as a Conditional Use.

E. Report from Zoning Administrator

1. Operations (Permitting and Enforcement)
2. Office Updates
   a. Proposed Text amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013
   b. Building Resilient Infrastructures and Communities (BRIC) – Blight Buildings Assessment and Remediation Planning

F. Report from Legal Counsel

G. Executive Session

H. Announcements

I. Adjournment

/s/Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

WANTED: CORRESPONDENTS

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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No writing work experience? We are willing to train!
Email your application and résumé to Akira Kadokura at
akira_kadokura@tanholdings.com or drop them off at the HR office
on the second floor of the JP Center building in Garapan, Saipan.

Life & Style

Matthew Perry's death under investigation

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Authorities have opened an investigation into how Matthew Perry received the supply of ketamine that killed him, police said Tuesday.

Los Angeles police are working with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service with a probe into why the 54-year-old "Friends" star had so much of the drug in his system, LAPD Capt. Scot Williams said in an email.

An assistant found the 54-year-old Perry face down in his hot tub on Oct. 28, and paramedics who were called immediately declared him dead. His autopsy, released in December, found that the amount of ketamine in his blood was in the range used for general anesthesia during surgery. It was listed as the primary cause of death, which was ruled an accident with no foul play suspected, the report said.

AP

Matthew Perry poses for a portrait on Feb. 17, 2015, in New York.

Drowning and other medical issues were contributing factors, the coroner said.

The investigation was first reported by TMZ.

People close to the actor told coroner's investigators that he was undergoing ketamine infusion therapy. The decades-old surgical drug has seen a huge surge in use in recent years as a treatment for depression, anxiety and pain.

But the medical examiner said Perry's last treatment 1 1/2 weeks earlier wouldn't explain the levels of ketamine in his blood. The drug is typically metabolized in a matter of hours. At least two doctors were treating Perry, a psychiatrist and an anesthesiologist who served as his primary care physician, the medical examiner's report said. No illicit drugs or paraphernalia were found at his house.

Perry had years of struggles with addiction dating back to his time on "Friends," when he became one of the biggest television stars of his generation as Chandler Bing alongside Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Lisa Kudrow, Matt LeBlanc and David Schwimmer for 10 seasons from 1994 to 2004 on NBC's megahit sitcom.

Drug-related celebrity deaths have in other cases led authorities to prosecute the people who supplied them.

After rapper Mac Miller died from an overdose of cocaine, alcohol and counterfeit oxycodone that contained fentanyl, two of the men who provided him the fentanyl were convicted of distributing the drug. One was sentenced to more than 17 years in federal prison, the other to 10 years.

Diddy accused of 2003 sexual assault in lawsuit

NEW YORK (AP)—A former model accused Sean "Diddy" Combs of sexually assaulting her at his New York City recording studio in 2003 in a lawsuit filed Tuesday, the latest in a series of allegations against the embattled hip-hop mogul.

Combs

Crystal McKinney said she was a successful 22-year-old model when she met Combs at a restaurant during Men's Fashion Week in Manhattan. Combs invited her to his recording studio later that night, according to the federal complaint filed in New York City.

The lawsuit alleges that McKinney arrived to find Combs drinking and smoking joints with several other men. She smoked some marijuana, which she "later came to understand" was laced with a narcotic or intoxicating substance, the lawsuit says. She felt as though she was floating. Combs led her to the bathroom, where the sexual assault took place, according to the lawsuit.

Combs led her back to the studio and she lost consciousness, the lawsuit says. She later awakened in a taxi and realized that she had been sexually assaulted, according to the lawsuit.

Combs' representatives did not immediately reply to an email seeking comment.

The Associated Press does not typically name people who say they have been sexually abused unless they come forward publicly, as McKinney has done.

The lawsuit was filed days after CNN aired security video that shows Combs attacking singer Cassie in a Los Angeles hotel hallway in 2016. Combs on Sunday released a video admitting he attacked Cassie in the hotel hallway, saying he was "truly sorry" and his actions were "inexcusable."

Combs is not in danger of being criminally prosecuted for the beating because of the statute of limitations.

A lawsuit filed by Cassie in November alleging beatings and abuse was settled a day after it was filed. But it spurred intense scrutiny of Combs, with several more lawsuits filed in the following months, along with a federal criminal sex-trafficking investigation that led authorities to raid Combs' mansions in Los Angeles and Miami.

The claim on Tuesday was filed under a New York City law that allows accusers to file civil litigation during a limited window even if the events allegedly happened long ago.

Trump campaign calls 'The Apprentice' film 'blatantly false,' director offers to screen it for him

CANNES, France (AP)—Donald Trump's reelection campaign called "The Apprentice," a film about the former U.S. president in the 1980s, "pure fiction" and vowed legal action following its premiere at the Cannes Film Festival. But director Ali Abbasi is offering to privately screen the film for Trump.

Following its premiere Monday in Cannes, Steven Cheung, Trump campaign spokesperson, said in a statement that the Trump team will file a lawsuit "to address the blatantly false assertions from these pretend filmmakers."

"This garbage is pure fiction which sensationalizes lies that have been long debunked," Cheung said.

"The Apprentice" stars Sebastian Stan as Trump. The central relationship of the movie is between Trump and Roy Cohn (Jeremy Strong), the defense attorney who was chief counsel to Joseph McCarthy's 1950s Senate investigations of suspected communists.

Asked about the Trump campaign's statement Tuesday in Cannes, Abbasi told reporters: "Everybody talks about him suing a lot of people—they don't talk about his success rate though, you know?"

But the Iranian Danish director also struck a less combative tone as he discussed the film at its festival press conference. He offered to screen "The Apprentice" for Trump and talk it over.

"I don't necessarily think that this is a movie he would dislike," said Abbasi. "I don't necessarily think he would like it. I think he would be surprised, you know? And like I've said before, I would offer to go and meet him wherever he wants and talk about the context of the movie, have a screening and have a chat afterwards, if that's interesting to anyone at the Trump campaign."

In the film, Cohn is depicted as a longtime mentor to Trump, coaching him in the ruthlessness of New York City politics and business. Early on, Cohn aided the Trump Organization when it was being sued by the federal government for racial discrimination in housing.

"The Apprentice," which is labeled as inspired by true events, portrays Trump's dealings with Cohn as a Faustian bargain that guided his rise as a businessman and, later, as a politician. Stan's Trump is initially a more naive real estate striver, soon transformed by Cohn's education.

Couple fears for well-being of abused friend and child

DEAR ABBY: My wife's good friend has had a tough time since her divorce. She started dating this guy off and on a few years ago. After the second breakup, we learned the reason. He was verbally abusive (same as her ex-husband).

They eventually resumed living together only to break up again after he threw hot cooking oil on her. This qualifies as physical abuse and, because they lived together, domestic abuse. She moved away and was considering a restraining order.

Several months have gone by, and now we have learned he has moved back in! We are worried for her and her young daughter. My experience as a former law enforcement officer is why I'm convinced she is trapped in a spiral of domestic abuse. I'm afraid each event will become more violent.

How can friends help in these cases? It's easy to spot these cycles when you are not in them.

STANDING BY IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR STANDING BY: The most helpful thing you and your wife can do is continue to stand by this friend. Do not allow her abuser to isolate her. Explain your concerns about the man's hair-trigger temper and your worry that her child could be caught in the middle of one of his violent episodes—or injured or killed if his fury is aimed directly at the child.

You or your wife should talk privately with her. Make sure she has the phone number of the National Domestic Violence Hotline (800-799-7233). And reinforce that if she senses she might be in danger, she can call not only the police but also you.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: After being widowed for several years, I've met someone. We are talking about my moving into his home. My problem is, what do I do with my husband's ashes? I'll be keeping my house and won't be moving a lot of my things, but leaving him here seems wrong, and taking him along doesn't seem right either.

At the time of his death, his children wanted nothing to do with his ashes. Because I haven't heard from them since his passing, asking them again is out of the question. Any idea what I should do?

RESPECTFUL IN MISSOURI

DEAR RESPECTFUL: What did you plan to do with the cremains in the event of your own demise? Have your wishes changed now that you have met someone? Because you haven't heard from your late husband's children doesn't mean you shouldn't contact them one last time. Ask what, if anything, they would like you to do with their father's ashes. Should you send them so they can dispose of them as a family, or would they prefer you scatter them in a significant place of your choosing? Their response will tell you what you need to know, and you can proceed free of guilt.

■■■

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

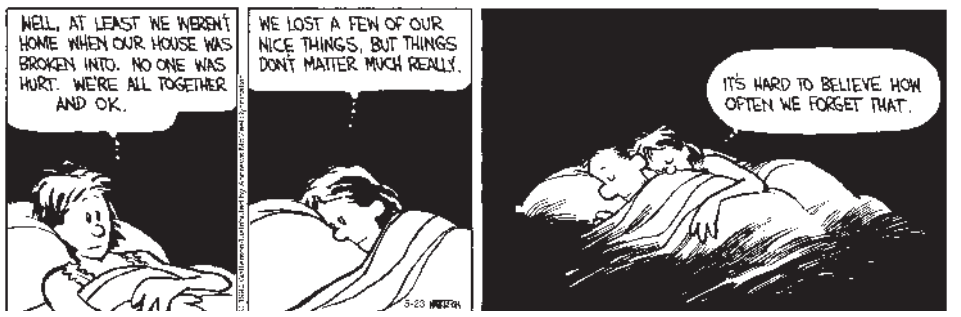
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WELL, AT LEAST WE WEREN'T HOME WHEN OUR HOUSE WAS BROKEN INTO. NO ONE WAS HURT. WE'RE ALL TOGETHER AND OK.
WE LOST A FEW OF OUR NICE THINGS, BUT THINGS DON'T MATTER MUCH REALLY.
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE HOW OFTEN WE FORGET THAT.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

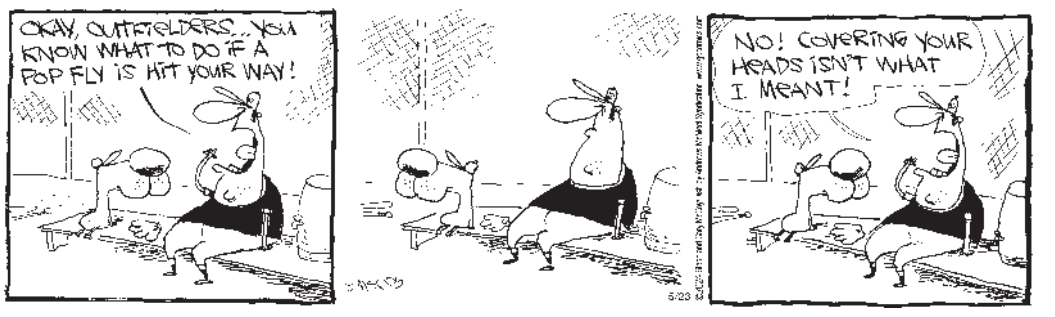
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

Z
DAD FELL ASLEEP AND THE ONLY THING HOLDING HIM OFF THE FLOOR IS HIS NOSE.
DO WE DO SOMETHING? WAKE HIM UP? WHAT IF HIS NOSE GIVES OUT?
YOU'VE SEEN HIS NOSE, RIGHT?
TRUE. I HEARD HE PULLED A CAR WITH IT BACK IN COLLEGE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

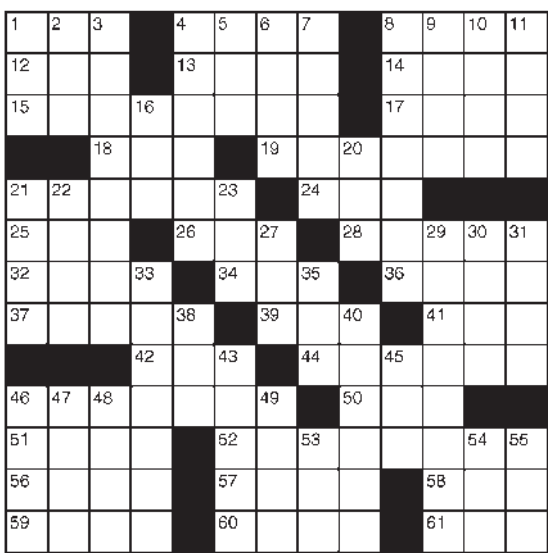
ACROSS
1 Resort
4 Platter
8 True pals, in texts
12 Listener
13 Den noise
14 Sheltered
15 Avant-garde cinema
17 Hindu deity
18 Aachen article
19 Mali neighbor
21 Rich cakes
24 Peace (Lat.)
25 Onassis nickname
26 "Diamonds" singer
28 Re Francis I
32 Cask sediment
34 "Mazel —!"
36 Roman 1052
37 — Rica
39 Part of UCLA
41 Web address
42 New England cape
44 Fanciful quality
46 Level
50 Performance
51 Hibernia
52 Vision-testing poster
56 Hammer target
57 Like a dungeon
58 Kanga's kid
59 Wagon
60 Big fusses
61 Casual shirt

DOWN
1 Salty expanse
2 Standard
3 Blood lines
4 Pilotless planes
5 Debtor's note
6 Lip
7 Lowlife
8 Law grad's test
9 Banner
10 Disaster aid gp.
11 Barking critter
16 Smack
20 Snooze
21 Bath powder
22 Layered cookie
23 Command to Rover
27 ISP pioneer
29 Fruit pastry
30 Melodies
31 Easter bloom
33 Dignified
35 "I do," for one
38 Industrious insect
40 Rough huts
43 "I — drink!"
45 German pronoun
46 Ward (off)
47 "I don't believe you!"
48 La Scala melody
49 Swimming legend Diana
53 Rock's Brian
54 Caviar base
55 "Little piggie"

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	A	A	■	F	E	T	A	■	D	I	N	A
H	E	M	■	I	M	A	N	■	U	R	A	L
A	R	I	■	A	U	C	O	U	R	A	N	T
B	O	R	I	S	■	■	N	T	H	■	■	■
■	■	■	S	C	U	D	■	E	A	S	E	D
O	W	E	M	O	N	E	Y	■	M	E	S	A
P	I	X	■	S	T	I	E	S	■	L	A	W
A	G	A	R	■	O	C	A	P	T	A	I	N
L	I	M	I	T	■	E	S	A	U	■	■	■
■	■	■	G	E	M	■	■	R	E	V	E	L
O	H	S	H	E	R	R	I	E	■	A	M	A
R	O	O	T	■	I	A	M	S	■	P	I	T
B	I	N	S	■	S	H	O	I	■	E	I	E

Yesterday's answer 5-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kelly Monaco, 48; Jewel, 50; Drew Carey, 66; Joan Collins, 91.

Happy Birthday: A little compassion paired with insight will have you off to the races. Put pressure on yourself to tidy up loose ends, and free yourself to indulge in some pastimes you want to conquer. Consider who you can pass jobs and responsibilities to, and don't look back. Set the stage for a year to remember instead of enduring. Your numbers are 6, 17, 23, 30, 38, 41, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* You have the drive and desire to get things done. Budget, plan and gather those you want along for the ride. Idle time is the enemy, so stay focused on your goal. It's time to finish what you start. 3 stars

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Take the initiative and stand up for your beliefs. The only way things will get done is if you do them yourself. Make a change that leads to new beginnings and opportunities, and stop worrying about who keeps up and who falls by the wayside. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Put a plan in place that allows you to fulfill your dreams, and take care of your responsibilities. Leave no room for your critics to point the finger or dismantle your plans. Show passion in everything you do, and you'll gain momentum. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Keep an open mind, learn as you go and put your imagination to good use. What you discover about yourself will help map out your course of action. A change will lead to an unexpected opportunity. Prepare to make a positive change. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Keep moving forward until you are satisfied with the results. Refuse to let anyone stand between you and your objective. Trust your intuition in joint ventures, finances, health issues and love. If you pay attention, you'll make better decisions. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Rely on facts and control emotions. Taking a walk down memory lane will remind you why you are heading where you are. Completion is necessary if you want to reach your goal and gain the freedom you deserve to follow your heart. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't stop yourself from having fun. Engage in activities that stimulate your mind and encourage you to look your best. Sharing feelings and intentions with someone special will ground you and help you decide what you want to pursue next. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* You'll feel discombobulated if you don't take control and know when to say enough is enough. Step outside your comfort zone if that's what it takes to get things done to your specifications. Recognize an opportunity and jump at the chance to make it happen. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Gather the facts and act accordingly. If you act on gossip, the results will be a letdown. Problems at home or with someone close to you will require time, energy and redirection to improve the situation. Think outside the box, and you'll find workable solutions. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Try something new, research, let your imagination play a role and see where it leads. An incident will give you the push to bring about positive change and encourage you to take better care of yourself, your finances and what's important to you. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Size up situations, say what you think and proceed. Recognizing what's happening and acting to modify the results will give you the confidence to reinvent yourself and what you want to do next. Don't let anyone stand in your way or cause you to miss out on something you want. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Rise above inevitable situations and live in the moment. Take in the positive and release the negative. A mindset change will help you reverse what is no longer working for you and pave the way to a brighter future. Follow your intuition and heart. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are innovative, spontaneous and pioneering. You are loving and kind.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	6		4	9	5		1	2
					1	7		5
	2	5	7	6			9	
7		9	5	2				3
							4	6
6			1					7
	3			5		6	7	
2			9				5	
		1		4	7			

Difficulty: ★★★ 5/23

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	1	4	7	9	2	8	6	5
8	6	9	1	5	3	2	4	7
2	5	7	4	6	8	3	9	1
5	3	1	2	4	9	7	8	6
6	9	8	3	7	5	1	2	4
7	4	2	8	1	6	5	3	9
1	2	6	5	3	4	9	7	8
9	7	3	6	8	1	4	5	2
4	8	5	9	2	7	6	1	3

Difficulty: ★★★ 5/22

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

VESAK Solution: 9 letters

S	A	S	U	T	O	L	A	N	T	E	R	N	Y	S
A	E	M	A	G	N	I	R	E	F	F	O	A	T	R
N	D	Y	R	V	W	A	T	E	R	O	D	P	I	E
G	A	L	F	A	E	H	T	S	M	H	E	M	R	W
H	R	R	A	I	H	D	E	L	T	C	B	O	A	O
A	A	Ⓔ	I	M	R	D	L	R	E	A	A	T	H	L
I	P	Ⓕ	T	H	P	U	I	R	U	P	T	S	C	F
C	R	Ⓘ	H	Y	F	B	P	T	L	T	H	U	L	L
I	E	Ⓛ	P	M	E	T	H	S	B	U	L	C	E	A
S	P	O	A	N	H	G	R	E	A	T	N	U	E	M
U	E	Y	G	G	I	F	T	E	L	D	N	A	C	E
M	N	A	I	R	A	T	E	G	E	V	E	M	R	E
O	T	E	N	L	I	G	H	T	E	N	M	E	N	T
N	O	I	T	A	T	I	D	E	M	O	N	E	Y	A
K	A	R	M	A	M	A	T	U	A	G	N	W	A	D

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Tatum scores 36, Celtics edge Pacers in Game 1 of East finals

BOSTON (AP)—The Celtics entered the playoffs expecting to get everyone's best shot.

The East's top seed barely survived a tough one to open the Eastern Conference finals.

Jayson Tatum scored 36 points, including 10 in overtime after Jaylen Brown's tying 3-pointer with 6.1 seconds remaining in regulation, and Boston rallied just in time for a 133-128 victory over the Indiana Pacers on Tuesday night.

Jrue Holiday added a season-high 28 points and Brown finished with 26.

"Welcome to the NBA playoffs. You've just got to manage your emotions. Anything can happen," Brown said of his tying 3. "It's not over until the final buzzer sounds. ... It's not over until it's over. We found a way to win the game at the very end."

It gave his team a new life and helped it hang on to home-court advantage with Game 2 set for Thursday in Boston.

But guarding against complacency was also on the mind of Tatum. The Celtics have lost Game 2 in each of their previous two series.

"It doesn't prove anything," Tatum said. "We won a big-time game. The series is far from over."

Tyrese Haliburton had 25 points and 10 assists for the Pacers, who knocked down 13 3-pointers and scored 56 points in the paint against a Celtics team still playing without 7-footer Kristaps Porzingis.

But Boston dialed up its defense, finishing with 11 steals—three each by Brown, Tatum and Holiday. The Celtics become the first team in NBA playoff history to have three players record 25 points and three steals in a game.

The Celtics were cold for most of the game from 3-point range, but ended the night 15 of 45 from beyond the arc.

"We keep talking about protecting home court," Celtics forward Al Horford said. "It's whatever it takes."

Pascal Siakam added 24 points and 12 rebounds. Myles Turner finished with 23 points and 10 rebounds for the sixth-seeded Pacers, who twice turned it over with a three-point lead in the final 30 seconds of regulation.

Brown made them pay for the second one, hitting a 3 from the corner with Siakam right in his face to tie it at 117.

"Jrue made a good pass, (Derrick White) set a great screen and the rest is history," Brown said.

Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla like the poise Brown showed.

"Jaylen had great balance," he said. "Great pass, great shot."

Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said the loss was "totally on me" for not calling a timeout to advance the ball before their turnover that set up Brown's shot.

Asked about the 21 turnovers Indiana committed, Haliburton said many of them were preventable.

"I think it's more on us," he said. "I just felt like more of them were probably on us than them forcing turnovers."

The Celtics are now 2-2 when their opponent scores 100 or more points.

Holiday said the Celtics never panicked after falling behind late in regulation

"I think we always knew that there's always a chance. We've seen crazy stuff happen all the time," Holiday said. "I don't think that we think we lost the game until we actually lost the game and that's part of the reason why we were so resilient."

Indiana went back ahead 123-121 when Haliburton hit all three free throws after being fouled with 1:46 remaining. Tatum then muscled in a layup and was fouled by T.J. McConnell. He completed the three-point play to put Boston ahead for good.

The Pacers turned it over again, this time by Haliburton. The ball found its way to Tatum at the top of key. He pumped, sidestepped a defender and sunk a 3 to make it 127-123 with 43 seconds left.

White and Siakam traded layups. Holiday was fouled and hit two free throws to give Boston a 131-125 cushion.

"It's unfortunate we did so many good things in this game that it came down to a couple of mistakes at the end, but it's the NBA playoffs," Carlisle said. "We've got to learn from it and we've got to bounce back."

AP

Boston Celtics guard Jaylen Brown (7) dunks the ball against Indiana Pacers forward Aaron Nesmith (23) during the first quarter of Game 1 of the NBA Eastern Conference basketball finals, Tuesday, May 21, 2024, in Boston.

Haliburton's TO cost Pacers, who blow late lead against Celtics in Game 1 of East finals

BOSTON (AP)—The Indiana Pacers kept turning the ball over, and just like that they handed a victory to the Boston Celtics in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals.

Tyrese Haliburton had two key turnovers—one at the end of regulation, and another in overtime—to help Boston recover from a five-point deficit in the final two minutes of the fourth quarter and win 133-128 on Tuesday night.

"Just turnovers. Turnovers," Haliburton began. "I had two bad turnovers that I feel cost us the game."

The Pacers arrived in Boston after upsetting the Milwaukee Bucks in the first round and the New York Knicks in the second—both times after losing Game 1. The Celtics are the NBA's top-seeded team, seven wins ahead of their closest competition and 17 wins better than the Pacers.

And when Boston opened a 12-0 lead on Tuesday night, it looked like the series might not even be competitive. But Indiana tied it by halftime, led 115-110 with 1:57 left in regulation and even had a three-point lead with 40 seconds left.

"We know we can play with these guys," Haliburton said. There's a lot of people out here saying we don't belong here. We don't really care. We know we belong."

It was turnovers – 22 of them for 32 points, and several in key spots—that cost them. In addition to Haliburton dribbling off his foot with 28 seconds left in a three-point game when he wasn't being closely guarded, he also lost the ball out of bounds with 1:02 left in overtime.

"Big-time turnovers," Pacers center Myles Turner said. "We showed our age a little bit tonight, being a youthful team in this high stakes of a game. We made some mistakes. A lot of uncharacteristic turnovers."

The Pacers led 117-114 with the ball after Jayson Tatum missed a potential game-tying 3-pointer with 37 seconds left. But Haliburton dribbled off his foot, giving Boston two more looks at the basket before Turner grabbed a rebound and was fouled with 10 seconds remaining.

That's when Andrew Nembhard threw away the inbounds pass, handing the Celtics yet another chance. Jrue Holiday found Jaylen Brown in the left corner; Pascal Siakam was supposed to foul him but hesitated, fearful of giving up three free throws.

Brown drained the 3, tying the score 117-all. Haliburton got the ball with a decent look at the basket, but he went looking for a better one and wound up tossing up a heavily contested, off-balance shot at the buzzer.

"That's replayed a bunch of times in my head already," Haliburton said. "That was probably the look for me to shoot."

Game 2 is Thursday night before the series shifts to Indianapolis. The Pacers will need to win at least once in Boston, and they aren't likely to get a better chance.

"This loss is totally on me," coach Rick Carlisle said, blaming himself for not calling a timeout to advance the ball with 10 seconds left. "We made some other mistakes. … We've got to own it, and we've got to get ready for Thursday."

Carlisle, who was fined $35,000 for complaining about the officiating in the second-round series against the Knicks, declined to comment on a 30-10 free throw differential—23-3 in regulation.

"My daughter's already going to sit out one semester of college," he said. "I can't have her take a whole year off."

Wembanyama becomes 1st NBA rookie to make first-team All-Defense

NEW YORK (AP)—Victor Wembanyama's latest accolade was like none other.

The San Antonio center has become the first player in NBA history to make the league's All-Defensive first team as a rookie. The league announced the teams on Tuesday, and Wembanyama appeared on 98 of the 99 ballots cast.

Defensive player of the year Rudy Gobert of Minnesota headlined the team and was the only unanimous selection. He was joined on the first team by Wembanyama, Miami's Bam Adebayo, New Orleans' Herb Jones and the Los Angeles Lakers' Anthony Davis.

"Coming into this league, obviously he had high expectations because he's 7-3 and shooting step-back 3s. I think a lot of people paid attention more to that than what he actually did on the defensive end," Adebayo said of Wembanyama. "So, for him to get first-team, first come around, it's obviously a great accolade for him."

The second-team All-Defense picks were Chicago's Alex Caruso, Orlando's Jalen Suggs, Minnesota's Jaden McDaniels and Boston teammates Derrick White and Jrue Holiday.

It was Gobert's seventh All-Defense pick, all of them as a member of the first team. Davis is now a five-time All-Defense player, and a three-time first-team selection. Adebayo made All-Defense for the fifth time, and his first as a member of the first team. Jones made the team for the first time.

"I feel it's a long time coming, obviously," Adebayo said of his first first-team nod. "Just staying in this moment, enjoying it, blessed to be able to be one of the ones selected."

Wembanyama is now the sixth rookie in NBA history to make the All-Defensive Team—with the other five all earning second-team nods in their first seasons. Those five were San Antonio's Tim Duncan in 1998, the Spurs' David Robinson in 1990, Washington's Manute Bol (1986), Houston's Hakeem Olajuwon (1985) and Milwaukee's Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (1970).

The All-NBA team will be revealed Wednesday. If Wembanyama makes that team, he would be the first rookie to earn that distinction since Duncan did 26 years ago.

Guardians continue win streak, beat Mets, 7-6

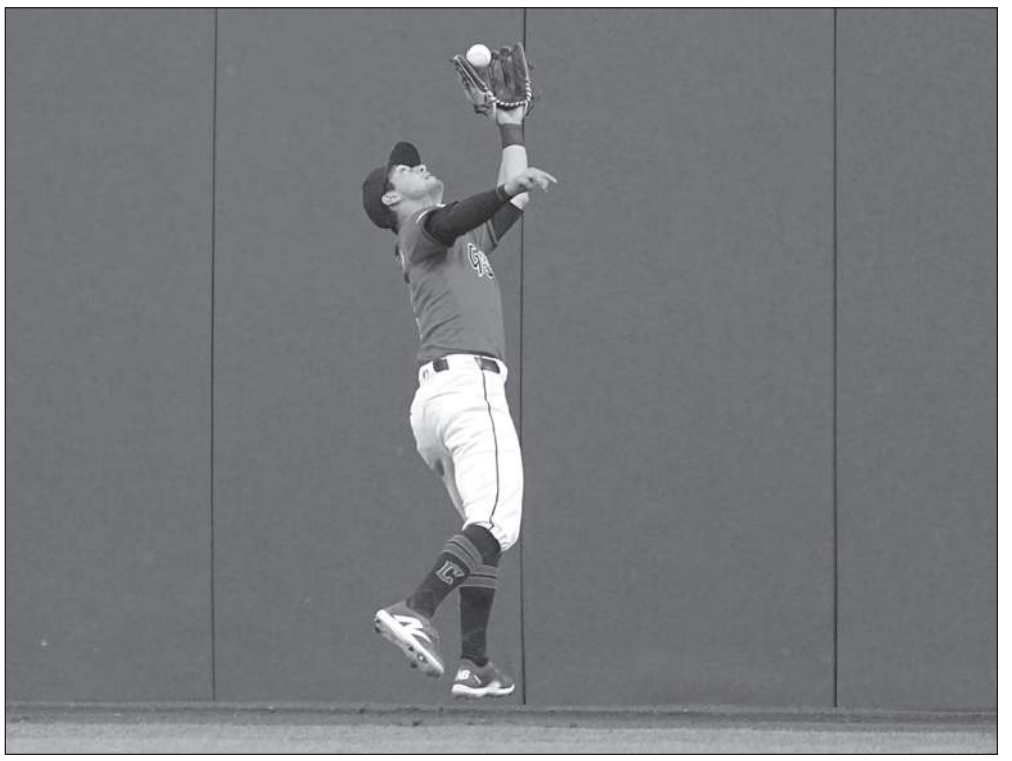
CLEVELAND (AP)— Guardians beat the New York Mets 7-6 on Tuesday night, matching their longest win streak of the season at five games.

David Fry added his first career pinch-hit home run, a two-run shot in the sixth inning, for the AL Central-leading Guardians. Cleveland has the fourth-best record in the majors at 32-17 and has won six straight at Progressive Field.

Jeff McNeil and Starling Marte each hit two-run homers and Mark Vientos had a solo shot for the Mets, who have dropped the first two games of the series and are 3-9 since May 10. McNeil and Vientos scored twice apiece.

Nick Sandlin (4-0) recorded two outs in the fifth and Emmanuel Clase worked the ninth for his MLB-best 15th save in 18 chances, retiring Pete Alonso on a game-ending double play.

New York never led, but pulled within one run in the top of the fifth, sixth and eighth. Marte's homer onto the left field porch off Scott Barlow cut the Guardians' lead to 7-6.



AP

Cleveland Guardians right fielder Tyler Freeman catches a fly ball hit by New York Mets' Jeff McNeil during the eighth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, May 21, 2024, in Cleveland.

RED SOX 5, RAYS 2

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Jarren Duran homered and stole home as Boston beat Tampa Bay.

Duran scored to make it 4-2 during a double steal with Rafael Devers in a go-ahead, two-run eighth against Jason Adam (2-1). Duran headed home after Rays catcher Ben Rortvedt tried to throw Devers out at second and beat a return throw to the plate with a head-first slide.

Devers singled in three at-bats for an 11-game hitting streak. He was intentionally walked in the decisive eighth that saw Wilyer Abreu hit a tiebreaking single earlier in the inning.

Duran homered leading off the sixth off Rays starter Zack Littell to tie it at 2. Reese McGuire had a solo drive in the ninth.

TWINS 10, NATIONALS 0

WASHINGTON (AP)—Byron Buxton hit two homers and drove in three runs, Joe Ryan pitched seven scoreless innings and Minnesota halted a seven-game losing streak with a victory over Washington.

Jose Miranda added a two-run homer as the Twins scored eight runs off Nationals left-hander Patrick Corbin (1-5). Willi Castro added a two-run shot off reliever Jacob Barnes as Minnesota responded following a players-only meeting after Monday night's 12-3 loss in the series opener.

Overall, the Twins scored more runs in the game than in the first six games of their skid combined.

Corbin allowed nine hits and three walks, and all of his season-worst eight runs allowed were earned.

REDS 2, PADRES 0

CINCINNATI (AP)—Andrew Abbott threw seven shutout innings, Elly De La Cruz doubled home a run and Cincinnati shook off a disastrous road trip to beat San Diego.

The Reds went 3-11 on their swing out West, losing series to the Giants, Diamondbacks and Dodgers. Back home, they did just enough offensively to win one behind another terrific outing by Abbott (3-4).

The 24-year-old lefty allowed four hits, striking out two and walking one. He allowed just one runner past first base. Fernando Cruz pitched a scoreless eighth and Alexis Díaz pitched the ninth for his eighth save.

PHILLIES 5, RANGERS 2

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Ranger Suárez stuck out 10 over seven innings and improved to 9-0 to lead Philadelphia to their MLB-best 35th win, a victory over Texas.

Bryce Harper hit his 11th homer of the season to help the Phillies win for the ninth time in 11 games and continue one of the best starts in franchise history.

This season, no pitcher in baseball has been better than Suárez.

The 28-year-old lefty walked off to a standing ovation in the seventh after he caught Leody Taveras looking on a 91.6 mph sinker to end the inning. Suárez took a no-decision in his first start of the season before he reeled of wins in nine straight starts.

WHITE SOX 5, BLUE JAYS 0

TORONTO (AP)—Garrett Crochet and three relievers combined on a two-hitter, Corey Julks and Danny Mendick each had two RBIs and the Chicago White Sox snapped a four-game losing streak by beating Toronto.

Chicago's Eloy Jiménez exited after straining his left hamstring while scoring from second base on Julks' two-out single in the top of the fifth. Gavin Sheets took over as the designated hitter in the seventh.

The White Sox avoided falling a season-worst 21 games below .500 and snapped a seven-game losing streak in Toronto. The Blue Jays were blanked for the third time.

Crochet (5-4) allowed two hits, struck out four and walked just one in six innings to win his fourth straight start. The left-hander extended his scoreless innings streak to 19.

BREWERS 7, MARLINS 5

MIAMI (AP)—Christian Yelich hit a go-ahead two-run triple in the eighth inning and Milwaukee beat Miami.

William Contreras had two hits and three RBIs, and Willy Adames doubled twice for the NL Central-leading Brewers (28-20).

Trailing 5-4, Jake Bauers doubled against Marlins reliever A.J. Puk (0-5) to lead off the eighth and Contreras drew a two-out walk. Yelich then cleared the bases with a drive to deep right-center that put the Brewers ahead 6-5. Adames' RBI double scored Yelich and chased Puk.

PIRATES 7, GIANTS 6, 10 INNINGS

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Nick Gonzales' run-scoring single in the bottom of the 10th inning lifted Pittsburgh to a victory over San Francisco.

Gonzales' leadoff hit up the middle off Erik Miller (0-2) scored automatic runner Connor Joe from second base and ended the Giants' season-high four-game winning streak. The Pirates have won four of their last five games.

The Pirates scored four runs in the bottom of the ninth to tie the game at 6-all and pin Camilo Doval with his first blown save in nine opportunities this season.

Ji Hwan Bae singled in the first run, rookie shortstop Marco Luciano's fielding error brought another in and Bryan Reynolds' RBI fielder's choice got the Pirates within 6-5. Oneil Cruz then pulled a two-out double to right field with an exit velocity of 122 mph, to tie it up.

MARINERS 6, YANKEES 3

NEW YORK (AP)—Bryan Woo pitched shutout ball at Yankee Stadium for the second straight season, Dylan Moore homered twice with four RBIs and Seattle held on to beat New York.

Ty France and Luke Raley also homered for the Mariners, who dealt the Yankees their first consecutive losses since April 29 and 30 at Baltimore. Seattle rallied from a three-run, ninth-inning deficit for a 5-4 victory in the series opener that stopped New York's seven-game winning streak.

In a matchup of division leaders, New York trailed 4-0 before Gleyber Torres hit a three-run homer in the seventh off Trent Thornton, just Torres' third home run this season.

Raley led off the eighth with a home run on the first Yankees pitch by Clayton Andrews, brought up from the minor leagues on Monday when Ian Hamilton was placed on the COVID-19 injured list.

Moore, the Mariners' No. 9 hitter, put Seattle ahead with a two-run homer to left in the third off Clarke Schmidt (5-2), added an RBI single in a two-run seventh and hit an opposite-field solo homer to right in the ninth against Nick Burdi for his sixth homer this year and third career two-homer game.

ROYALS 10, TIGERS 3

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Bobby Witt Jr. homered twice as Kansas City beat Detroit Tigers for their fifth straight win.

Maikel Garcia led off the first with a triple and scored on Witt's infield hit. Witt stole second and scored when Salvador Perez hit a single to right.

After Kyle Isbel and Garcia singled in the second, Witt hit Casey Mize's splitter 468 feet—the farthest of his career—into the upper deck fountains.

Mize (1-3) surrendered six runs on nine hits with two strikeouts in 1 2/3 innings, the shortest outing of his career.

Garcia drove an RBI triple to right and scored on Witt's third-inning sacrifice fly to give the Royals an 8-0 lead. Garcia scored three runs while matching a career best with four hits, extending his hitting streak to nine games.

CUBS 4, BRAVES 3

CHICAGO (AP)—Nico Hoerner hit a game-ending infield single in the 10th inning in his return to the lineup, and the Chicago Cubs beat Atlanta.

The Cubs had runners on the corners with one out in the 10th when the Braves brought their infield in. Hoerner then hit a high chopper to the right side that first baseman Matt Olson and second baseman Ozzie Albies converged on.

Albies had no play as Cody Bellinger scampered home with the winning run. It was Hoerner's first hit after missing six straight games with left hamstring tightness.

ASTROS 6, ANGELS 5, 10 INNINGS

HOUSTON (AP)—Kyle Tucker homered twice to give him an MLB-leading 17 and Jeremy Peña's RBI single with one out in the 10th inning lifted Houston to a win over the Los Angeles Angels.

The Angels intentionally walked Yordan Alvarez with no outs in the 10th and Kyle Tucker on second as the automatic runner. Both players advanced on a fly out by Alex Bregman before Peña singled off Carlos Estévez (0-3) on a line drive to right field to give Houston the victory.

Tucker homered in the first and his second solo shot tied it in the seventh. Alvarez added a solo home run and Jon Singleton hit a two-run homer for the Astros.

Josh Hader (3-3) pitched two scoreless innings, striking out the side in the 10th for the win.

ATHLETICS 5, ROCKIES 4

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Abraham Toro hit a go-ahead homer in the eighth after Seth Brown hit a tying two-run drive the previous inning, and Oakland snapped an eight-game losing streak with a win over Colorado.

Colorado's Ezequiel Tovar hit a pair of solo home runs for his first career multi-homer game and Ryan McMahon added a two-run drive before the A's rallied against Justin Lawrence and Tyler Kinley (2-1).

Lucas Erceg (2-2) pitched the eighth before flame-throwing closer Mason Miller struck out the side in order in the ninth for his ninth save in as many chances.

DIAMONDBACKS 7, DODGERS 3

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Joc Pederson slugged a three-run homer, Christian Walker went deep and Arizona beat the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The Dodgers had their four-game winning streak at home snapped as they got outhit, 12-6.

Arizona's Brandon Pfaadt (2-3) didn't allow a hit until the fourth when Shohei Ohtani doubled leading off. The Japanese superstar stole third—tearing his pants sliding—and scored on catcher Gabriel Moreno's throw that went into left field. The unearned run left the Dodgers trailing 2-1.

The Dodgers pulled to 4-3 with a pair of runs in the bottom of the sixth. Miguel Vargas doubled leading off, took third on Mookie Betts' flyout and scored on Ohtani's RBI single to make it 4-2. Ohtani stole second after Freddie Freeman struck out and he scored on Will Smith's RBI double to center.

Ohtani went 2 for 4 with a strikeout, scored twice, drove in a run and stole two bases. Betts was hitless in three at-bats with a walk on his bobblehead night.

Tacoma, Pathfinder, $5K are hole-in-one prizes in Visa Classic

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2024 Visa Marianas Classic Golf Tournament set for Saturday, May 25, at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort is offering up thousands of dollars in hole-in-one prizes.

For hole No. 4 at LaoLao east, the hole-in-one prize is a brand new 2024 Toyota Tacoma Sport from Atkins Kroll Saipan.

On hole No. 11, you can drive away with a 2024 Nissan Pathfinder Platinum Edition from Joeten Motors if you hit a hole-in-one there.

Or, a hole-in-one in hole No. 6 nets you $5,000 courtesy of Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.

Besides the hole-in-one prizes, cash will be won by the winners and a United Airlines round trip ticket and other great prizes will be raffled off at the banquet.

Hans Mickelson, sponsorship coordinator of the tourney, said in order to make it a good tournament that will benefit a good cause, the hole-in-one prizes should be enticing, and thanked the companies for their sponsorship.

Funds raised in the tourney will benefit the Make-a-Wish Guam & CNMI.

The golf tournament is in its fourth year and is jointly hosted by Bank of Guam, IP&E, IT&E, and Citadel Pacific Ltd-Pacific Points Rewards Program.

Show time is at 12pm and tee time is at 1pm. Registration is ongoing for $140 which includes a ditty bag and banquet dinner immediately following, with players limited to the first 100. The game format is double peoria.

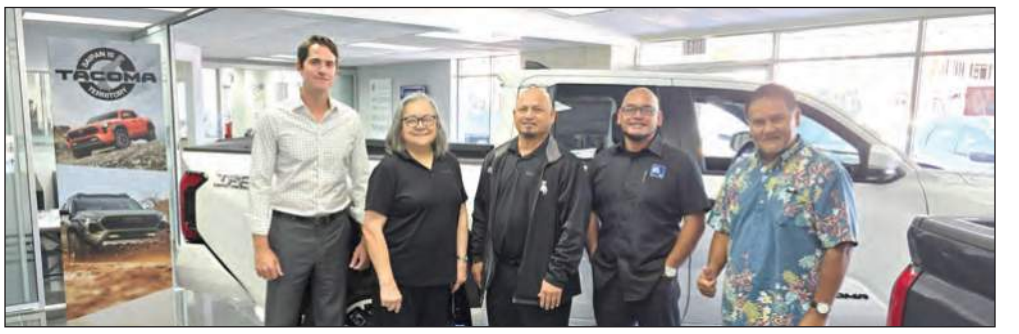
To register, call (670) 287-4267, email info@marianasclassic.com, or sign up and pay at the IT&E cashier in San Jose.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Hans Mickelson (sponsorship coordinator), Matt Deets (Joeten Motors vice president), Marcie Tomokane (Bank of Guam vice president and CNMI regional manager), Gus Palacios (Bank of Guam utility manager), Ray Alvarez (Joeten Motors sales manager), Paul Guerrero (IT&E Sales manager), and Jack Salas (IP&E Operations manager) pose for a photo with the 2024 Nissan Pathfinder Platinum Edition from Joeten Motors. The car is a hole-in-one-prize for the 2024 Visa Marianas Classic Golf Tournament set for Saturday, May 25, at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacifica Insurance donates $5,000 as a hole-in-one prize for the 2024 Visa Marianas Classic Golf Tournament set for Saturday, May 25, at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Clark Boswell (AK Toyota general manager), Marcie Tomokane (Bank of Guam vice president and CNMI regional manager), Gus Palacios (Bank of Guam utility manager), Paul Guerrero (IT&E Sales manager), and Jack Salas (IP&E Operations manager) pose for a group photo with the 2024 Toyota Tacoma Sport from Atkins Kroll Saipan. The car is a hole-in-one-prize for the 2024 Visa Marianas Classic Golf Tournament set for Saturday, May 25, at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.

Wahoo in the Marianas set for June 1, 2024

Tasi To Table's student-led fishing derby, the Wahoo in the Marianas, is set for June 1, 2024 from 6am to 5pm at the Smiling Cove Marina. Derby registration will take place the day before, May 31, 2024 from 4pm to 6pm at the Smiling Cove Marina.

Registration fees are $200 per vessel, consisting of one captain and two anglers, $30 for each additional angler. Prizes are as follows: $2,000 for first place, $1,500 for second, $1,000 for third, and a $500 prize for Total Weight (three heaviest non-placing wahoo).

The Wahoo in the Marianas is Tasi To Table's yearly fishing derby that is hosted by, and for, TTT's student members. Funds raised from the derby will go towards TTT's student program.

"This is our fifth year of holding this wahoo derby, and it's grown and gotten better year after year. We look forward to even more competitors out on the water this time around. Come out, enjoy a day of fishing, and support our young leaders who worked hard to make this derby possible," said Tasi To Table president Gene Weaver.

For more details, feel free to reach out to Tasi To Table by calling (670) 234-8274 (TASI) or emailing daniel.wollakttt@gmail.com, marita.igleciasttt@gmail.com, sablan.jeendaniel@mycnmipss.org, or haruzi.brayden@mycnmipss.org. ***(PR)***

WALSH

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50m backstroke, 50m breaststroke, and 100m individual medley.

For 9-year-old Gabriel, he said, "I'm nervous and happy because it's my first time to go to another country for swimming." Even with that, he said, he'll persevere and try to bring home some medals.

For 8-year-old Olivia, she said she's nervous as well as it's also her first time to compete off island. Come competition day, she said, "I look forward to swimming hard and trying my best." Both she and Gabriel are Saipan International School students.

Pamela Walsh said of her children's first international meet, "Our family is all about health and wellness. We want our kids to develop their bodies as much as they develop their brains. We hope they will appreciate growing up and representing the CNMI: their home. Also, traveling and experiencing new places will give them a more multicultural perspective as they grow older and begin to build their lives as adults."

Eleven-year-old P.J., also from SIS, said, "I love swimming. I am looking forward to competing in a sport that I love and representing the CNMI. I hope I do well and make everyone proud, especially my coach and family."

For younger brother 8-year-old Vince of Isla Montessori School, he said, "I am feeling excited and very nervous to swim in Hong Kong against so many other swimmers. But I am also looking forward to this new learning experience."

Vince Seman, father of P.J. and Vince Jr. said, "We are so humbled by the support of family, friends, businesses, and the Saipan Swim Club community through the raffle fundraiser. These young swimmers will be competing for the first time off-island with hundreds of other swimmers from all over Asia and Pacific. We want them to have fun learning and competing, meeting and getting to know other swimmers. And to take pride and be humbled by this wonderful opportunity to represent the CNMI and SSC."

The boys' mother, Catherine, said, "Hopefully, this will be the first of many such opportunities-not just for these four swimmers but also other swimmers from SSC and Tsunami. It's amazing how well the older swimmers have done in international competitions, even with the limited resources and facilities they have here on Saipan—they managed to practice and train, and excel! I hope we can do more to support these swimmers in this sport."

As for SCC coach Richard Sikkel, he said, "This will be their first ever official swim meet and I am excited to see how they will do."

He said that the HK Island Stingrays Swim Club sent SCC an invitation to join their age group swim meets. "I put it out to our parents to gauge interest and a few swimmers/parents expressed interest in going," he said.

The team left for Hong Kong last Tuesday night.

According to their Facebook page, the HK Island Stingrays Swim Club is a competitive swim club based at Hong Kong International School on Tai Tam. They are focused on developing individuals to achieve their personal best in swimming, sportsmanship, and being a collaborative member of the team.

SIS

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SIS' Beatrice Gross then grabbed silver in the 100m sprints with her time of 14.43 seconds. Gold was won by Lenteja who ran under 14 seconds at 13.75. Bronze was White who clocked in at 14.53 seconds.

In the 200m, White bagged silver with a time of 29.84 seconds. Gold went to Lenteja at 29.42 seconds, while bronze was Gross at 30.67.

The 4x100m saw SIS win another gold medal with a time of 57 seconds. DMS won silver with a time of 1:00.52, while bronze went to bronze Grace Christian Academy who collectively clocked in at 1:03.19.

The SIS' relay team was superior once again as they sprinted to gold in the 4x400m race at 4:51.47. Silver went to DMS at 5:21.25, while bronze was ACS at 5:33.51.

In the field event discus throw, White claimed silver as she threw a 18.07m mark. Gold was TJHS' Ka'isa San Nicolas at 20.34m, while bronze was Taflinger with a mark of 15.38m.

SIS coach Angela Taflinger said after the awards ceremony that the team's hard work and team work paid off.

"They all did amazing. I'm so proud of their ability to get together, not as individual athletes, but together as a team," she said. "They worked on their relays, and you can see how smooth their handoffs were. Their encouragement from one another was amazing. It just shows that we're a family, and they came to prove that today."

As for how it felt to win the title after a third-place finish last year, she said, "It feels great. They worked hard. These kids came out all season—pushed it and challenged themselves, and gave it 110% in every event that they did, so I'm very proud of them."

She added that the season was great but that they had a three-week break between the last meet and the championships. Even with that, she said the team "showed up to all the practices and continued to push themselves—what a way to end the school year."

MIYAKO

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really hot weather but just the right weather to be on the track. It was mostly enjoying every moment and having fun," said the daughter of David Celis and Shoko Celis.

With the aforementioned second Power Puff Girls win under her belt, Celis' next plan is to ride more hours and train with her dad and the rest of the Trench Tech Racing Team.

"Watching my dad racing made me want to give it a try and it became one of my main sports. I dedicate this win to my dad and mom for always supporting me and my Trench Tech Racing Team. I also want to thank Joeten Motors Yamaha (Ray 'Boss' Alvarez), 4ever CNMI, Rep. John Paul Sablan, Speaker Edmund Villagomez, Ericco Racing Team, and Marianas Racing Association for another fun weekend of racing," she said.

In the Women's Class, Mari Alvarez proved her win in April wasn't a fluke by topping the May race with 47 points—winning the first heat. Billie Inabo Pangelinan was second with her 43 points after a third-place finish in Heat 1 negated her first-place finish in Heat 2. Merissa Rasa was third with 42 points.

Tatum scores 36, Celtics edge Pacers in Game 1 of East finals
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Sports

Tacoma, Pathfinder, $5K are hole-in-one prizes in Visa Classic
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SIS sprints to MS girls athletics champs

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Saipan International School Lady Geckos won the girls athletics team championship in the 14U middle school division of the PSS/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field 2023-2024 championships last Friday night and Saturday morning at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

LEIGH GASES

The champion Saipan International School's middle school girls athletics team, center, poses with the perpetual trophy, along with silver medalists Tinian Jr. High School, right, and bronze medalists Dandan Middle School, left, during the awards ceremony of the 14U middle school division in the PSS/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field 2023-2024 championships last Saturday morning at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

LEIGH GASES

Saipan International School's Aubrey White gets the baton from the handoff of Beatrice Gross during their 4x400m relay last Saturday morning during the 14U middle school division of the PSS/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field 2023-2024 championships at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

The Lady Geckos gathered a whopping 172 points for the gold medal, while silver went to Tinian Jr. High School at 76 points, and bronze was Dandan Middle School with 44 points.

The SIS track stars first swept the 800m race. Gold went to Addalee Taflinger with a time of 2:40.27. Silver was teammate Faith Arriola at 2:49.27, while bronze was right behind and clocked in at 2:50.07.

Taflinger grabbed gold again, this time in the 400m race with her time of 1:05.58. Silver was TJHS' Ysabella Lenteja with 1:08.49. Bronze went to SIS' Aubrey White at 1:10.63.

For the third time, Taflinger fancied herself another gold medal after leaving everyone in the dust in the 3,000m race (no time listed); silver was teammate Arriola (no time listed); and bronze was Agape Christian School's Sabrina Shen (no time listed).

Another gold for Taflinger was won in the 1,500m race at 6:10.46. Silver was Arriola with a time of 6:17.48, while bronze was Adalee West who clocked in at 6:22.90.

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Miyako records 2nd Power Puff win

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Miyako Celis in action in the Power Puff Girls Class of the May 2024 "MOTO IV" Points Race Series last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Park in Marpi.

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

Miyako Celis flexed her motocross muscled anew by winning the Power Puff Girls Class in the May 2024 "MOTO IV" Points Race Series last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Park in Marpi.

Aboard her trusty Yamaha YZ125, the 15-year-old Marianas High School student won both heats of the Marianas Racing Association competition for a perfect 50 points. She was followed by the 42 points of Kesiil Camacho and the 22 points of Hiromi Sasamoto.

"The course was dry, hot, and dusty but it was fun as I like riding in the dust. It was

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Walsh, Seman siblings off to swim in HK

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club's young swimmers and siblings Olivia and Gabriel Walsh and P.J. and Vince Seman Jr. are off to Hong Kong for the Hong Kong Island Stingrays Swim Club Annual Summer Invitational Swim Meet 2024.

The meet is set for tomorrow, May 24, until Sunday, May 26. This will be the young swimmers' first international swim meet.

P.J. is swimming in the 50m and 100m freestyle and the 50m and 100m backstroke. Olivia, Gabriel, and Vince are taking on the 50m freestyle,

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Saipan Swim Club's young swimmers P.J. Seman, Olivia Walsh, Gabriel Walsh, and Vince Seman Jr. pose for a group photo in the airport enroute to Hong Kong last Tuesday night for the Hong Kong Island Stingrays Swim Club Annual Summer Invitational Swim Meet 2024 that will be held tomorrow, May 24, until Sunday, May 26.